

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A utility lighter, comprising:

a casing having a lighter housing, which has an internal cavity and pusher cavity therein, and a tubular lighter rod extended from said lighter housing, wherein said lighter housing further has a safety slot communicating said internal cavity with an exterior of said lighter housing;

a fuel storage housing disposed in said internal cavity of said lighter housing for storing liquefied gaseous fuel to ignite said utility lighter;

an ignition system which comprises:

a piezoelectric unit supported in said internal cavity for generating piezoelectricity, wherein said piezoelectric unit comprises a movable part and a fixed part;

a gas-emitting nozzle communicated with said fuel storage housing for releasing gaseous fuel;

a gas tube extended from said gas-emitting nozzle to a top end portion of said lighter rod to form an ignition tip therein;

a spark-generating tip extended from said piezoelectric unit to said ignition tip through said lighter rod for generating sparks; and

a pusher button which is supported in said pusher cavity in a movable manner and operatively connected to said piezoelectric unit and said gas-emitting nozzle; and

a safety arrangement which comprises:

a stop post extended from a wall of said pusher button;

a locking member, which comprises a switching member slidably mounted on said lighter housing along said safety slot and a stopper which is extended from said

switching member into said lighter housing and is arranged to normally block up a downward movement of said pusher button, wherein said locking member is movably supported by said lighter housing and adapted for being switched between a locked position and an unlocked position, wherein, in said locked position, said stopper is aligned with said stop post to block said downward movement of said stopper to block any downward compression of said movable part of said piezoelectric unit to prevent generating sparks, wherein, in said unlocked position, said stopper is moved out of alignment with said stop post to enable said pusher button to be moved downwardly to depress said movable part of said piezoelectric unit and generate sparks at said spark-generating tip to ignite said gaseous fuel emitted from said ignition tip; and

a resilient element mounted in said lighter housing for urging a pushing force to said locking member to normally retain said locking member in said locked position.

Claim 2 (original): The utility lighter, as recited in claim 1, wherein said safety arrangement further comprises a guider latch spacedly and parallelly formed adjacent to said stop post that defines a guiding slot therebetween.

Claim 3 (original): The utility lighter, as recited in claim 1, wherein said safety slot is formed on a side wall of said lighter housing and said locking member further comprises a driver member connecting said switch member positioned outside said lighter housing to said stopper slidably supported inside said lighter housing via said safety slot.

Claim 4 (original): The utility lighter, as recited in claim 2, wherein said safety slot is formed on a side wall of said lighter housing and said locking member further comprises a driver member connecting said switch member positioned outside said lighter housing to said stopper slidably supported inside said lighter housing via said safety slot.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The utility lighter, as recited in claim 1, wherein said locking member has a sliding cavity formed at one side of said stopper for said stop post to be slid therein, wherein said sliding cavity is wider than a thickness of each of said stop post and said guider latch and when said locking member is in said locked position, said stop post is positioned right above said stopper of said locking member and thus said downward movement of said pusher button is blocked and

locked by said locking member, wherein when said locking member is switched to said unlocked position by operating said switching member until said stopper moves aside from right below said stop post that, during said unlocked position, when said pusher button is depressed downwardly, said pusher button is able to be further depressed that causes said locking member to move backward and said stopper is inserted into said guiding slot, so that said pusher button is free to be depressed to ignite said utility lighter, wherein after each ignition operation, said locking member of said utility lighter automatically returns to said locked position in which said pusher button and said locking member are rebounded back to said locked position by said resilient element and said piezoelectric unit respectively.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The utility lighter, as recited in claim 2, wherein said locking member has two sliding cavities formed at two sides of said stopper for said guider latch and said stop post to be slid therein, wherein each of said sliding cavities is wider than a thickness of each of said stop post and said guider latch and when said locking member is in said locked position, said stop post is positioned right above said stopper of said locking member and thus said downward movement of said pusher button is blocked and locked by said locking member, wherein when said locking member is switched to said unlocked position by operating said switching member until said stopper moves from right below said stop post to right below said guider latch of said pusher button that, during said unlocked position, when said pusher button is depressed downwardly, a guiding end of said guider latch biases against a top end of said stopper that enables said pusher button to be further depressed that causes said locking member to move backward and drives said guider latch to move downwardly until said stopper is inserted into said guiding slot, so that said pusher button is free to be depressed to ignite said utility lighter, wherein after each ignition operation, said locking member of said utility lighter automatically returns to said locked position in which said pusher button and said locking member are rebounded back to said locked position by said resilient element and said piezoelectric unit respectively.

Claim 7 (original): The utility lighter, as recited in claim 1, wherein said pusher button has a locking cavity provided therein for receiving said safety arrangement of said utility lighter, wherein said stop post of said safety arrangement is integrally projected from a top wall of said pusher button and downwardly extended vertically and spacedly inside said locking cavity of said pusher button.

Claim 8 (original): The utility lighter, as recited in claim 2, wherein said pusher button has a locking cavity provided therein for receiving said safety arrangement of said utility lighter, wherein said stop post and said guider latch of said safety arrangement are integrally projected from a top wall of said pusher button and downwardly extended vertically and spacedly inside said locking cavity of said pusher button.

Claim 9 (original): The utility lighter, as recited in claim 5, wherein said pusher button has a locking cavity provided therein for receiving said safety arrangement of said utility lighter, wherein said stop post of said safety arrangement is integrally projected from a top wall of said pusher button and downwardly extended vertically and spacedly inside said locking cavity of said pusher button.

Claim 10 (original): The utility lighter, as recited in claim 6, wherein said pusher button has a locking cavity provided therein for receiving said safety arrangement of said utility lighter, wherein said stop post of said safety arrangement is integrally projected from a top wall of said pusher button and downwardly extended vertically and spacedly inside said locking cavity of said pusher button.

Claim 11 (original): The utility lighter, as recited in claim 2, wherein said guider latch has a tapered guiding end having a slanted surface which is inclined toward said stop post and adapted for biasing against a top end of said stopper.

Claim 12 (original): The utility lighter, as recited in claim 6, wherein said guider latch has a tapered guiding end having a slanted surface which is inclined toward said stop post and adapted for biasing against a top end of said stopper.

Claim 13 (original): The utility lighter, as recited in claim 1, wherein said stop post is protruded from a bottom portion of a side surface of said pusher button.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The utility lighter, as recited in claim 2, wherein said stop post and said guider latch are spacedly protruded from a bottom portion of a side surface of said pusher button.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The utility lighter, as recited in claim 10, wherein said guider latch has a tapered guiding end having a slanted surface which is inclined toward said stop post and adapted for biasing against a top end of said stopper.

Claim 16 (original): The utility lighter, as recited in claim 14, wherein said guider latch has a tapered guiding end having a slanted surface which is inclined toward said stop post and adapted for biasing against a top end of said stopper.